MUSKEGON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

990 Terrace Street, Muskegon, MI 49442

Emergency 911 • Telephone (231) 724-6351

Case MCSD-1999-010378 Printed on July 7, 2025

Status	Approved
Report Type	Patrol
Primary Officer	ROBILLARD, ROGER N
Investigator	None
Reported At	09/24/99 12:28
Incident Date	09/24/99 12:28 - 09/24/99 12:28
Incident Code	
Location	BLUE LAKE TWP
Disposition	Closed - Converted
Disposition Date/Time	09/24/99 12:28
Disposition Comments	
Review for Gang Activity	None

Case Comments

Tracking Notes:

Offense Information

Offense	20000 -:- ARSON
Statute	Converted Statute
NIBRS Code	
Counts	1
Include In NIBRS	No
Completed	No
Entry Forced	No

Suspect

CARR, NICHOLAS JOHN - [redacted]	Converted Statute - 20000 -:- ARSON
GOULETTE, MATTHEW MARK - [redacted]	Converted Statute - 20000 -:- ARSON
HARRIS, ALBURTLE EDWARD - [redacted]	Converted Statute - 20000 -:- ARSON
PRUDEN, JOHN ROBERT - [redacted]	Converted Statute - 20000 -:- ARSON

Witness

[redacted]	Converted Statute - 20000 -:- ARSON

Victim

[redacted]	Converted Statute - 20000 -:- ARSON
[redacted]	Converted Statute - 20000 -:- ARSON

Other

GRABINSKI, ROBERT BRUCE - [redacted]	Other: Converted Statute - 20000 -:- ARSON

LANGE, GEORGE JOHN - [redacted] Other: Converted Statute - 20000 -:- ARSON

MCNABNEY, ROBERT - [redacted] Other: Converted Statute - 20000 -:- ARSON

PRUDEN, ROBERT JAMES - [redacted] Other: Converted Statute - 20000 -:- ARSON

Original Narrative By ROBILLARD, ROGER N, 12/04/17 13:16

Reporting Officer: ROBILLARD, ROGER

Investigator: LEONARD, TERRANCE

NARRATIVE: R/O was called to the scene of a fire at Owassippi Scout Camp. The fire occurred at Camp Black Hawk, which is located off Owassippi Road northeast of Russell Road.

BUILDING:

Tongue and groove structure with an asphalt roof. The structure sits on a cement slab on the west portion and has a basement of cinder block under the dining area of the east end. There are several camp vehicles and all the recreational equipment is in this area. The upstairs dining area has several large windows and four double entrance/exit doors which have crash bars attached and a dead bolt lock.

The building is divided into three portions on the upper floor. The east side has a full length deck with steps at both ends. There are two double doors off the deck which lead into the dining area. There are also large windows that overlook the lake. Once in the open dining hall, there are two entrance/exit doors on the west side of the dining hall. Also located on the west side of the dining hall are three serving windows and an in door and out door to the kitchen area. The kitchen area is a large open room with sinks on one end, and stove and freezer/refrigerator units. The doors on the north side lead outside. A hallway leads back on the south side, going west. Off this hallway are two bathrooms. The hallway leads into an office area with an outside entrance. The office area also has an inner door leading into the trading post area, which also has an outside entrance.

FIRE LOCATIONS:

Dining Room, office, and trading post.

DINING ROOM:

R/O observed charring on the north end wall by the window. There are portable dining tables folded standing at this end of the room. R/O observed pour pattern on the north wall, continuing over the tables and around to the west wall. The pour was on the floor and lower portion of the wall. The pour continued past the entrance/exit door over the top of a non-folding table to the area of the serving windows where the pour stopped.

A second pour started within a few feet. This one went along the floor in front of the west wall to the entrance/exit doors of the kitchen and continued along the floor and wall until reaching the south wall. The pour continued on the floor and south wall and then over another set of folded tables that were against the south wall at the east end. Burn patterns were seen and photographed along this wall. Samples taken from this area are:

#1 - Wall trim board from north of the northwest entrance/exit doors of the dining room.

#2 - Piece of wood off floor in front of south wall of dining room.

#3 - Table from dining room west wall north of serving windows. A sterile gauze was used to take samples from table top.

#6 - A truck tail lamp from the floor in front of south wall.

All the samples came from an area that the fire dog Grizzly made a hit on.

Nothing appeared to be disturbed in the kitchen and bathroom areas.

OFFICE AND TRADING POST:

The pour started at the entrance/exit door and went along the west wall and directly onto a poster hanging on the wall and over the counter top and along the west wall by the desk. The pour then continued into the trading post area over the counter to along the floor behind it and on the west wall and west wall cabinet to the entrance/exit door. All pours of flammable liquid were ignited, but burned themselves out. Sample #4, taken in the office area, was taken from the counter top with a sterile gauze. Sample #5, taken in the trading post, was taken from the counter top with a sterile gauze.

POWER:

R/O learned that all power to this building had been turned off prior to the fire when the building had been winterized at least one week earlier. All water to the building had also been turned off. Photographs of the power circuit breaker box were taken. Electrical was eliminated as being the cause of the fire.

R/O checked the building for entry points and found no forced entry, indicating that a door may have been left unlocked or a key was used for entry. R/O was told by camp staff that there is a poor accounting for keys to the property.

BUILDING SETTING:

The building is set on a lake north of Owassippi Road. There is a locked gated entrance point at Owassippi Road. The padlock had to be cut by Owassippi staff, because someone poured a substance appearing to be super glue in the lock. The lock is evidence sample #7. The building is not visible from the roadway and anyone in this area of the building would have enough time without being detected. Owassippi staff stated that at the close of camp and shut down, the building would be checked approximately once a week.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]

[redacted] stated that this is the first year he has worked year round in the seven years he has worked at Owassippi. He stated that they had worked on the dump truck and he had taken a load of metal to the recycle yard. Upon returning, they decided to haul a couple of loads of sand to the beach area in front of Black Hawk. When they arrived at the gate, they noticed that something had been put in the lock and he could not get his key in to open it. He called maintenance and Nick came out with bolt cutters and cut the lock.

After dumping his load of sand and pulling out from the beach along the north side of the building, he stated that he smelled smoke and stopped the truck to investigate. [redacted] looked up on the north side of the building and saw a small amount of smoke coming from around the window. Upon further investigation, he found the fire damage on the inside and called Nick again. Nick then called the fire department and Dalton Fire responded.

INTERVIEW WITH NICHOLAS CARR

Nick stated that [redacted] had called and stated that he was unable to put his key into the lock on the gate at Black Hawk. Nick stated that this was a common occurrence and he took the bolt cutters with him and cut the lock. [redacted] went in with the sand and Nick went back to the shop. Nick stated that the next call came in and it was [redacted] telling him to call the police and fire department because the building was on fire. Nick stated that [redacted] said it looked like arson.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Camp Director)

[redacted] stated that there are currently two full time and two part time employees. Two employees are finished at the end of September.

[redacted] stated that the building has been closed and the water and power shut off. The building is used in the winter to store the camp equipment and vehicles in the basement area. He estimates that one million dollars of equipment is

stored in the basement. [redacted] stated that the building is checked no more than once a week; he could not give the last time the building was checked. He stated that it is not a very secure building in the upper half because of all the doors and windows. Some of the doors are in poor condition and he felt that they possibly could be opened by pulling on them. However, he did say that at the end of the year the camp carpenter did work on the doors so that they would secure properly.

[redacted] stated that there has been a larger than average turn over of personnel all the way to the top of the organization. He stated that several bills for the camp are over due. He has received overdue notices on a regular basis since being there.

[redacted] stated that in the past there has been a problem with the Blue Lake community. The community does not like the signs stating "Chicago Area Council". Years ago the signs were changed because of the community protest. The signs have recently been changed back to "Chicago Area Boy Scout Council".

[redacted] stated that there are several keys out. The keys to the gate had been changed last year so keys to the gate prior to this time will not work.

[redacted] was asked if he suspected any staff or past staff and he stated he did not. He stated that he has no idea who could have done this.

R/O took photographs going clockwise of the building exterior. R/O observed the most extensive damage on the north wall of the dining room near the window. R/O photographed the interior of the building starting with the dining room, working toward the rear. Fire Marshall Grabinski was called to the scene and had his fire dog go through. The dog hit on several areas. Dep. Robillard did castings of unidentified foot impressions found at the scene.

10/5/99

RE-INTERVIEW WITH NICHOLAS CARR (AT MCSD)

Nick stated that he was living at the camp in staff housing. On 9/23/99 there was a power outage around 9:00 to 10:00 p.m. Nick stated that there were no renters at the camp at the time. He felt that the only possible problem was making sure the generators kicked in for the water pumps. Nick stated that when the power did not come on he went to the maintenance building. He got into a camp truck and drove out and checked the generators; they were all fine. Nick stated that he drove to White Lake and Russell Roads and found the power was out all the way there. He stated that he turned around and drove north on Russell to Fruitvale then east on Fruitvale to Nichols. He went south on Nichols to Owassippi and west on Owassippi to Russell and back to the maintenance building where he made contact with Tim. R/O asked Nick if he noticed any vehicles along the way and he stated he believes he saw only one, on Fruitvale Road. He was sure about no one being on Owassippi.

R/O asked Nick if the gate to Black Hawk was open and he stated that he did not notice it. He stated that if it was, he would have noticed it. He stated that he did not drive back to Black Hawk.

R/O asked Nick how long he has worked for the camp and he said since the summer of 1995. From November of 1996 to May of 1997, he volunteered weekends. In September of 1997 he became seasonal staff full time, finishing in August of 1998. He was seasonal staff from February of 1999 through October of 1999. From February of 1999 to May of 1999 he was part time, working 20 hours. He went on full time in May through September 1, 1999, when he went back to part time. He was done on October 1, 1999. Nick stated that he had planned to work part time this fall and go to college. The cut in the budget put him out of a job and it was hard for him to have to go.

Nick stated that the camp has financial problems and many people have not been paid. He further stated that the food service is contracted to Glynn Ellen, Illinois, to Quest Management. When they left, some of the employees did not receive their last pay checks. The company hired several locals, many from the Progress Drive area.

Nick further stated that people doing business regularly with the camp were not paid. Among them, Brennen Oil, Gordon Foods, Pepsi, Standard Lumber, Tri-County Feed, and Howard Platt lock smith. Nick stated that he saw a bill for Pepsi for $12,000.

R/O asked Nick about fuel storage at the camp and he stated that all the cans are supposed to be kept in a storage shed behind the maintenance building, but they are not. Many times they are in the maintenance building. The fenced in area where the fuel tanks are have gates on both ends, which are never locked.

R/O asked Nick if he started the fire. He said no, that he would never do anything to hurt the camp, that he loved the camp.

R/O advised Nick that, according to evidence, it appeared that the fire had been started the night prior to discovery and that it is interesting that he was in the area of the fuel storage, and he is being laid off and does not feel he should be. He was also in the area of Camp Black Hawk when the fire was started and had no reason to be there.

R/O asked Nick if he would take a polygraph examination and he said that he did not know if he would, that he would have to think about it and call R/O.

Nick called R/O at 2:50 on this same date. He stated that he had heated words with [redacted] about his being let go prior to his interview at MCSD. He said that he said things that he should not have said.

The Muskegon Chronicle and the White Lake Beacon have been requested to post a notice of reward of $5000.00 for information on the fire.

This investigation continues.

Det. T. Leonard, #6153

Supplemental Narrative By Unknown, 09/27/99 00:00

Supplement

Officer:

EVIDENCE

On 9-24-99 I responded with Dep. Kozal to Camp Blackhawk on a possible arson complaint. We arrived and searched the area after inspecting the cafeteria. A request was made for a detective and Det. Leonard started heading to the scene. Prior to his arrival the entire area surrounding the burned cafeteria was searched for footwear impression leading to or from the building and for a container that might have been used to carry the fire inducing chemical. Two footwear impression of unknown origin were found in the sand approximately 30 to the south of the S/W corner of the building. The tread design of every fire personnel at the scene and of the complainant, [redacted], were inspected. None matched. Castings were made of the impressions and picked up after they dried.

TOT Evidence

87199 Robillard

Reviewer 84140

Supplemental Narrative By Unknown, 11/01/99 00:00

Supplement

Officer:

LAB RESULTS

Per MSP Crime Lab results: "...Gas Chromatographic - Mass Spectrometric (GC-MS) analyses showed the presence of gasoline in items #1 and 2, and did not show the presence of any identifiable ignitable liquid petroleum products in items #3 - 5."

A copy of this report given to Investigating Officer.

Supplemental Narrative By Unknown, 11/19/99 00:00

Supplement

Officer:

Leonard

11-19-1999 10:42am

Officer had not heard back from Nicholas Carr who had been requested to take a polygraph. Officer contacted Nick by TX.

Nick stated that he was not going to take a polygraph test.

Nick Carr is my only suspect at this time. Officer will close the complainant at this time pending further information.

Closed

Terrance L. Leonard 6153

Reviewed 85146

Supplemental Narrative By Unknown, 03/07/00 00:00

Supplement

Officer:

LEONARD #2

3/6/00

R/O received a call from Nick Carr, who requested I schedule a polygraph for him on this complaint. A polygraph was scheduled for Friday, March 24, 2000 at 1:00 p.m. Nick was advised to be at this office at noon for transportation to the polygraph site.

Det. T. Leonard, #6153

Supplemental Narrative By Unknown, 06/19/01 10:30

Supplement

Officer:

LEONARD #8

[redacted] advised R/O that [redacted] had information which could assist in this investigation.

6/18/01

TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH [redacted]

[redacted] stated that he has volunteered at the scout camp for the past two years and his son has been going there for eight years. He stated that he does not plan to go back this year.

[redacted] stated that he does not know who would be doing something like this. He stated that he has no suspects and has no idea who would be doing this. He did stated that he would contact R/O if he received any information.

Det. T. Leonard, #6153

Supplemental Narrative By Unknown, 06/27/01 14:03

Supplement

Officer:

LEONARD #9

6/22/01

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH WILLIAM BLYNN, FBI

Agent Blynn stated that he had received a notification from the Chicago FBI office concerning the Owasippi fires. He stated that the information originated with Anthony Gibb, Assistant Scout Executive. Gibb stated in his information that this is a racially motivated hate crime. The fires area against the scouts because they are primarily black and Latino. R/O has requested a copy of this information be faxed to this office.

R/O advised Agent Blynn of the lab results thus far, while going over each of the five fires individually. Agent Blynn stated he will assist in any way possible. He was also advised that Agent Marquardt of the ATF is involved in the investigation with R/O, Glotzbach and Grabinski. Agent Blynn will be in contact with Agent Marquardt.

Det. T. Leonard, #6153

Supplemental Narrative By Unknown, 12/10/17 22:21

Supplement

Officer:

LEONARD #7

6/6/01

R/O received a telephone message from [redacted] who stated that he has information about the Owassippe fires.

6/14/01

TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH [redacted]

[redacted] stated that he has worked for the Boy Scouts for two summers and is not going back. [redacted] stated that he believes, for several reasons, that Rob Pruden set the fires. He stated that Pruden was hired by [redacted] and his boss, who are all now gone. [redacted] and his boss embezzled $50,000.00 from the Boy Scouts.

[redacted] helped Rob Pruden move into his house. The house was junk and should have been condemned. This is the house that burned. Pruden was extremely upset that he was getting such a piece of junk to live in. He wanted another house to live in.

Pruden works for Chicago and the fires started when Pruden came in.

Reneker had defective windows and roof and there was no money to repair it. In the winter it was vandalized and the insurance replaced the windows. Black Hawk has no food preparation area. They wanted to put in a kitchen and it had no room right after it burned.

The Boy Scouts have been in financial trouble for the last few years. [redacted] stated that his working partner at the camp is a retired police officer from Chicago who knows more about the problems in the Boy Scouts than he does. This person is [redacted] (e-mail address: COP0236AD1.com) Robert is going to contact [redacted] and have him contact R/O.

6/14/01

R/O left a message for Mike at ATF to inform him of the status of this investigation.

Det. T. Leonard, #6153

Supplemental Narrative By Unknown, 12/10/17 22:21

Supplement

Officer:

LEONARD #6

11/29/00

R/O received Silent Observer tip #297, which stated that investigators should check into a gay rights movement called "Grass Fires". The caller stated they are suspected in other scout camp fires.

R/O had MCSD computer specialist Jeff Lenartowicz run an Internet search on Grass Fires, but nothing was found.

12/6/00

CONTACT WITH ANTHONY GIBBS

R/O left a voice mail message with Gibbs informing him that Rob did not show for his polygraph. R/O also gave him the information received about Grass Fires. R/O asked him to call if he knew anything about them.

R/O also had received information on 11/20/00 that Roger Gimmen owns property at 2101 Raymond Rd. Roger is suspected in problems occurring to the neighbors property in the area. The informant believes Roger should be looked at in these fires.

12/7/00

TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH ANTHONY GIBBS

R/O asked Anthony if he had any dealings with or conversations about an organization called Grass Fires. He stated that he would send out a nation wide request for information on the Boy Scout network.

R/O and Anthony spoke about Robs failure to show or call for his polygraph. It was determined that R/O would reschedule the polygraph and send Rob a letter.

R/O asked Anthony about Roger Gimmen. He stated that he is not familiar with Gimmen and does not believe the Boy Scouts have had any problems with him.

Anthony suggested that R/O speak to Don Studaven, a friend of the Boy Scouts. He thought that Don could possibly give R/O some incite on this matter. R/O attempted contact with Studaven and left a message for him to call.

Det. T. Leonard, #6153

Supplemental Narrative By Unknown, 12/10/17 22:21

Supplement

Officer:

LEONARD #5

10/13/00

INTERVIEW WITH PEGGY JEWELL

Linda PRUDEN brought Peggy JEWELL, who stated she was a clairvoyant/psychic, to the camp. Peggy said that she has gotten very strong feelings since coming to the camp. She gave a description of the person as a white male, 57", possibly shorter, piercing blue eyes that stand out, stocky, bald and thirty to forty years old. The person looks younger than he is, his age is hard to tell, but he is definitely not young. Peggy stated that she is speaking about the fires at the home and Renker.

During the home fire, there was one other person with the subject, also a male. She said the subject is an employee who will tell me he quit but was actually pushed out. This person will act like a wonderful person in front of people but will have a flip personality. This person will take his anger out on objects. He loved to be in the maintenance building and had a desk by the back door where Al sits now. He was the head of the camp, not only maintenance. The second person in the house fire smokes a lot and leans against objects.

At the Renker fire, there were three people. The third man knows the camp well and lost his mother in the past year. He is very masculine and was also employed here, but Peggy is not sure how long or in what capacity. Peggy feels it has been five to six years since his employment at the camp.

Peggy stated the vehicle involved is a small box-shaped vehicle with a dent or damage to the right rear quarter panel. The damage was caused by hitting a tree at the camp. The vehicle is a four door, blue-silver color.

Peggy said that she feels that something else is going to happen soon. She is unsure what but stated she gets strong feelings when she is around the area of the food preparation building. She stated that she got strong vibrations when she saw a van behind the food preparation area. When she went to it the van contained a diesel generator. Peggy feels it was diesel fuel that was used to start these fires.

Peggy stated that not everything has happened when it was intended to. She again stated the person doing this knows the camp. This person has lived in the house that was burned and also in Ranger #1 or #2 by the medical station. Peggy stated she feels the person has been at the camp recently and knows she is at the camp now. Peggy feels that the person responsible for the fire at Blackhawk is a very immature person, possibly Nick CARR.

TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH [redacted]

[redacted] called and stated he would not take a polygraph examination.

10/16/00

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN PRUDEN

R/O asked John where he was during the house fire and he said he was with his parents in Cincinnati. He said they had left Thursday prior to the fire.

R/O asked John where he was during the Blackhawk fire. He said he was at school when the fire was discovered. His mother picked him up from school and John and his mother left for Indianapolis for his Uncles wedding. John stated that the night prior he was at home with his parents.

R/O asked John where he was during the fire at Renker. He said that Labor Day was a long weekend and he was at home and when he woke the fire trucks were being dispatched. He could hear it over the camps base radio, which is located in his house. R/O asked John if he had anything to do with the fires or if he had conspired with anyone to set the fires and he said no.

John stated he and Chris DRAZBA are good friends. They do not talk about the fires or about Chris ex-husband. R/O asked John who he thought started the fires he said Mike DRAZBA. When asked why he thought this, he stated it was just a feeling he has; he feels it is a pay back to the camp.

INTERVIEW WITH ROB PRUDEN

R/O asked Rob about the male that comes to [redacted] was very busy during the summer. At one point they had put a sign in his front yard stating [redacted] Motel. Rob said he knows a lot of the people by sight but does not know them by name. Rob knows very little about these people.

Rob said Peggy went to Steve HOLKES house and she is sure Steve is involved in the fires.

Rob said Steve and Mike DRAZBA drink together at Corsies Bar in Whitehall or at Pin Heads in Whitehall when Mike comes to town. He said they were seen together Labor Day weekend.

Rob stated that the cabin that had the most damage Labor Day weekend, number 11, held Guy GOGULONIs personal items. Guy was one of the males having a relationship with Chris DRAZBA prior to the break up of Mike and Chris DRAZBA.

R/O has been unable to make contact with Mike MARQUAT, ATF.

R/O called the Chicago Area Boy Scout Counsel and left a message for Anthony GIBBS to call for an update.

Det. T. Leonard, #6153

Supplemental Narrative By Unknown, 12/10/17 22:21

Supplement

Officer:

LEONARD #4

10/11/00

INTERVIEW WITH ROBERT PRUDEN

R/O went to the Boy Scout camp and spoke with Robert. He was told that his sons name was given on the MSP hot line as bragging about starting the fires. Robert stated that during fire #1, his son John was home the night prior to the fire and at school when the fire was discovered. During fire #2 John was in Cincinnati with the family; they had left on Friday night. During fire #3 John was home with his mother Linda when Robert left for Chicago at 3:30 a.m. Linda took John to school.

R/O advised Robert that it was agreed to by the counsel and the police that all three employees be given a polygraph reference the fires. Robert agreed and stated that [redacted] would be in Chicago November 12 - 25.

R/O asked Robert about information that had been received about a fire in Cincinnati. Robert stated that a dining hall burned and two years later he left the camp. Two boys were found to be the perpetrators.

Robert stated his son John is a straight A student and peer assistant. Robert became emotional and stated that John has a fear that the fire will be repeated at the new residence.

Arrangements were made for R/O to speak with John on 10/16/00 at 3:00 p.m. at Owassippi.

10/12/00

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]

[redacted] was advised that a tip had been called in listing him as a suspect. [redacted] laughed and said that he had nothing to hide and asked what R/O wanted to know.

R/O asked [redacted] for his thoughts on the fire. He said that he felt Nick could have been involved because Nick was told a week prior that he did not have a job; this fire was one that would cause repair work; Nick said things that made [redacted] suspicious but did not give specific examples; Nick had brought in his school papers to show [redacted], Camping Director, showing he had taken classes based on being a Ranger (he broke down after not getting hired); the Black Hawk fire was totally different from the others.

[redacted] does not feel that Nick was involved in the other fires.

[redacted] was watching Roberts house while Robert was out of town. Roberts dogs were at [redacted] house and [redacted] had been at the house one and a half to two hours prior to the fire to check the mail and feed the fish. [redacted] believes the fires could have been started by the same person or persons. He said these fires were done to destroy the structures. [redacted] feels it is someone that knows the camp and has possibly worked at the camp because no one was at the camp when the fires broke out.

R/O asked [redacted] where he was during the house fire. He stated he had friends from Chicago that weekend and was working. The friends were doing a conservation study in the woods. (Paul Herzina, Chicago, Ill, 312-939-2233; Kevin Murphy, Chicago, Ill; Trudy Koeh)

During the Renker fire, [redacted] had an Eagle Scout gathering at his house. He said he was up until 3:00 a.m. waiting for everyone to arrive. They went to breakfast at 6:00 a.m. and went to work at 8:00 a.m. At approximately 8:45 a.m. [redacted] was going to open Renker and discovered the fire. Present at the time were Paul HERZINA, Larry CARP, John MAGYRICS, Ron LONGHI, Victor GARCIA, Frank LONGHI, and Norman FRANK. [redacted] said that on the way to the camp Ron LONGHI saw a blue streak in the sky in the area of Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp at approximately 11:00 p.m.

[redacted] stated that he does not feel that the PRUDENs are involved in the fires. However, it has crossed his mind that Rob could have started the Renker fire. Rob left for Chicago and the building burns and [redacted] wondered if Rob could have set it before he left.

[redacted] said that Rob was called to Chicago and was asked by Jim STONE to make observations on how things were run during the summer. [redacted] and [redacted] had input and the finished draft was completed and sent to Jim STONE. The report got into the hands of others and the people went overboard in their reactions. [redacted] said a lot of people took it the wrong way and this was the reason Rob was called to Chicago the day of the Renker fire.

R/O called polygraph and an appointment was scheduled for Monday, October 16, 2000.

CONTACT WITH STEVE LAGUE

Steve stated that Linda PRUDEN called his residence and he does not want her calling again. She wants him to meet with a psychic at her home and has expressed her unhappiness with the investigation. Steve stated he will not meet with her and that his part of the investigation is complete. R/O called the camp and left a message for Linda to stop making the phone calls.

Det. T. Leonard, #6153

Supplemental Narrative By Unknown, 12/10/17 22:21

Supplement

Officer:

LEONARD #3

Nick Carr is the main suspect in this complaint. Nick is refusing a polygraph and has an attorney.

This complaint is inactive pending further information.

Det. T. Leonard, #6153

Supplemental Narrative By Unknown, 12/10/17 22:21

Supplement

Officer:

HARRIS POLY

3/15/01

Alburtle Harris was administered a polygraph examination by Spl/Sgt Colleen Lane of MSP Polygraph Subunit. According to Lane, Harris passed his examination, indicating that he was being truthful when he denied involvement in the fires or knowledge of who did.

Property / Evidence

Item #	Category	Type	Status	Location	Description
MCSD-1999-010378-2001	Stolen	Physical	Converted		Article - OTHER
MCSD-1999-010378-2002	Stolen	Physical	Converted		Article - OTHER
MCSD-1999-010378-2003	Stolen	Physical	Converted		Article - OTHER
MCSD-1999-010378-2004	Stolen	Physical	Converted		Article - OTHER
MCSD-1999-010378-2005	Stolen	Physical	Converted		Article - OTHER
MCSD-1999-010378-2006	Stolen	Physical	Converted		Article - OTHER
MCSD-1999-010378-2007	Stolen	Physical	Converted		Article - OTHER
MCSD-1999-010378-2008	Stolen	Physical	Converted		Article - OTHER

MUSKEGON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

990 Terrace Street, Muskegon, MI 49442

Emergency 911 • Telephone (231) 724-6351

Case MCSD-2001-005841 Printed on July 7, 2025

Status	Approved
Report Type	Patrol
Primary Officer	Unknown
Investigator	None
Reported At	05/15/01 07:43
Incident Date	05/15/01 00:01 - 05/15/01 07:30
Incident Code	
Location	BLUE LAKE TWP
Disposition	Closed - Converted
Disposition Date/Time	05/15/01 07:43
Disposition Comments	
Review for Gang Activity	None

Case Comments

Tracking Notes:

Offense Information

Offense	95001 -:- ACCIDENT: FIRE
Statute	Converted Statute
NIBRS Code	
Counts	1
Include In NIBRS	No
Completed	No
Entry Forced	No

Suspect

VELDMAN, BARBARA GRACE - [redacted] Converted Statute - 95001 -:- ACCIDENT: FIRE

Witness

[redacted] Converted Statute - 95001 -:- ACCIDENT: FIRE

Victim

OWASIPPI SCOUT RESER Converted Statute - 95001 -:- ACCIDENT: FIRE

Other

[redacted]

Other: Converted Statute - 95001 -:- ACCIDENT: FIRE

Other: Converted Statute - 95001 -:- ACCIDENT: FIRE

Other: Converted Statute - 95001 -:- ACCIDENT: FIRE

Other: Converted Statute - 95001 -:- ACCIDENT: FIRE

Other: Converted Statute - 95001 -:- ACCIDENT: FIRE

[redacted]

Other: Converted Statute - 95001 -:- ACCIDENT: FIRE

Other: Converted Statute - 95001 -:- ACCIDENT: FIRE

Other: Converted Statute - 95001 -:- ACCIDENT: FIRE

Original Narrative By Unknown, 12/04/17 13:03

Reporting Officer: LEONARD, TERRANCE

NARRATIVE: 5-15-01

I received a call from CPD that Rob Pruden had called and there had been another fire at Owasippe.

Glotzbach and myself went to Camp Carlin the scene of the fire. Upon arriving we found a totally destroyed building.

Weather report

There had been a storm that had traversed the area the night of the fire.

The National Weather Bureau Stated:

Midnight

Visibility 6miles

Temperature 54 degrees

Winds S.E. 16 MPH

1am

Visibility 2 1/2 miles

Tempeture 54 degree

Winds S.E. 16 MPH

2am

Temperature 52 Degrees

Winds S.E. 16 MPH

The thunder and lightening started at 1:10a and by 2am it was full force. There were 150 to 175 lightening strikes in the north east end of the county. There were 5-10 serious lightening strikes. There had been 6 to 8 inches of rain fall this evening.

Investigation

It was learned that [redacted] while doing rounds found the building burnt. The building still had steam coming from the ashes.

The area had been protected by the camp personal. An initial walk around had been done by Leonard and Glotzbach. No Foot prints were found after the heavy rain.

We learned the gates had all been locked over the night.

Electricity

There had been no electricity to this building. Two weeks prior to the fire the electrical supply line to the building had been accidentally completely severed and had not yet been repaired.

This rendered the building with out electricity.

Gas

It was initially thought there was Propane gas to the building. There are two large propane tanks to the south of the building. the tanks were suppose to be at 15 percent for the winter with all the valves closed. All three valves were open and the tanks were empty. The center control valve still has a shinny surface it had not been exposed to the weather long. All the employees thought the tanks were still attached to the building.

Wayne Vandermolen of Progas came to the scene. Wayne stated two years ago the building had been disconnected from these lines. They had set this building up on a portable tank . The portable tank was removed for the winter months.

There was no gas going to this building.

Photos

Photos were taken by Leonard.

Glotzbach and Leonard dug the scene. We observed the barrel bolts for the left set of double doors were not in the lock position. We also observed the door had been open during the fire.

The area in front of both sets of doors and area in between them was cleaned and inspected. There were no unusual patterns found on the floor. This area was photographed.

The door sill at the left set of doors showed burn through. This was also photographed. Samples were taken from under the sill and were sent into the lab to be analyze.

Spauling was found over the entire floor area of the building. this was also photographed.

The main floor area of the building was open . The tables were pushed to the corners of the building. No fire debris was located in the center of the building other than the roof structure. This allowed for a low fuel load and we had an extremely hot fire.

The scene investigation was completed and all investigators cleared at 2:00 PM.

Dog

Fire Marshal Grabinski and his K9 partner Griz was called to the scene. See Grabinskis report for further.

Cause

An electrical short and a natural fuel source have been eliminated as possible causes for this fire. The two remaining options are; the lightning storm that occurred the night before and the possibility the fire was caused by human hands. Leaving this as an undetermined fire.

Origin

Due to the complete destruction of the building a point of origin was not determined.

Leonard 86153

Reviewed by: 84150 Lt Kubicek

Supplemental Narrative By Unknown, 05/23/01 10:09

Supplement

Officer:

LEONARD #2

5/17/01

CONTACT WITH [redacted] (Adjuster for Chenard & Osborn Inc.)

[redacted] are representing the insurance company in this case. R/O requested charts on the lightening strikes in the area the night of this fire and the exact location of the strikes. [redacted] stated that he will request this from his company, as he has done so in the past.

CONTACT WITH MIKE MARQUARDT

Agent Marquardt has had several telephone calls from [redacted] All information available at this time was related to Marquardt by R/O and a copy of the report sent to him.

5/21/01

CONTACT WITH MIKE MARQUARDT

Agent Marquardt stated that the ATF will bring their fire dog to the scene.

The dog was brought to the scene by handler [redacted] Two areas samples were taken. A total of five samples were sent to the crime lab.

5/22/01

SCENE

R/O, Glotzbach and Marquardt dug out the scene. A heavy burn was found at the loading ramp doors in the aluminum threshold and under it. Two samples were taken from this area and taken to the crime lab.

Investigation continues.

Det. T. Leonard, #6153

Supplemental Narrative By Unknown, 06/19/01 10:28

Supplement

Officer:

LEONARD #5

[redacted] advised R/O that [redacted] had information which could assist in this investigation.

6/18/01

TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH [redacted]

[redacted] stated that he has volunteered at the scout camp for the past two years and his son has been going there for eight years. He stated that he does not plan to go back this year.

[redacted] stated that he does not know who would be doing something like this. He stated that he has no suspects and has no idea who would be doing this. He did stated that he would contact R/O if he received any information.

Det. T. Leonard, #6153

Supplemental Narrative By Unknown, 06/25/01 12:30

Supplement

Officer:

LAB REPORT ROBILLARD

6-25-01

Laboratory report from MSP indicates the fire debris tested did not show the presence of any identifiable ignitable petroleum based products.

87199 Det. Robillard

Supplemental Narrative By Unknown, 06/25/01 14:35

Supplement

Officer:

LEONARD #6

6-25-2001

I received the samples from the lab. They are negative for ignitable liquid.

The lightening charts from Arizona stated there are two lightening strikes in the area with the coordinates that were given that could have possibly could had struck this building.

Glotzbach and my self have walked the area and were unable to locate any strikes in the woods near the building.

At this point this is fire is listed as an undetermined fire.

closed

Leonard 81653

Supplemental Narrative By Unknown, 06/27/01 14:00

Supplement

Officer:

LEONARD #7

6/22/01

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH WILLIAM BLYNN, FBI

Agent Blynn stated that he had received a notification from the Chicago FBI office concerning the Owasippi fires. He stated that the information originated with [redacted], Assistant Scout Executive. [redacted] stated in his information that this is a racially motivated hate crime. The fires area against the scouts because they are primarily black and Latino. R/O has requested a copy of this information be faxed to this office.

R/O advised Agent Blynn of the lab results thus far, while going over each of the five fires individually. Agent Blynn stated he will assist in any way possible. He was also advised that Agent Marquardt of the ATF is involved in the investigation with R/O, Glotzbach and Grabinski. Agent Blynn will be in contact with Agent Marquardt.

Det. T. Leonard, #6153

Supplemental Narrative By Unknown, 06/29/01 15:28

Supplement

Officer:

LAB RESULTS

6-29-01

Lab results from Grand Rapids lab Indicates item #8 showed the presence of a medium range naphthionic-paraffinic product which includes charcoal fluid, lamps oils and some insecticides.

Information turned over to Det. Leonard.

87199 Det. Robillard

Supplemental Narrative By Unknown, 12/10/17 22:40

Supplement

Officer:

LEONARD #4

6/6/01

R/O received a telephone message from [redacted] who stated that he has information about the Owassippe fires.

6/14/01

TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH [redacted]

[redacted] stated that he has worked for the Boy Scouts for two summers and is not going back. [redacted] stated that he believes, for several reasons, that Rob Pruden set the fires. He stated that Pruden was hired by [redacted] and his boss, who are all now gone. [redacted] and his boss embezzled $50,000.00 from the Boy Scouts.

[redacted] helped Rob Pruden move into his house. The house was junk and should have been condemned. This is the house that burned. Pruden was extremely upset that he was getting such a piece of junk to live in. He wanted another house to live in.

Pruden works for Chicago and the fires started when Pruden came in.

Reneker had defective windows and roof and there was no money to repair it. In the winter it was vandalized and the insurance replaced the windows. Black Hawk has no food preparation area. They wanted to put in a kitchen and it had no room right after it burned.

The Boy Scouts have been in financial trouble for the last few years. [redacted] stated that his working partner at the camp is a retired police officer from Chicago who knows more about the problems in the Boy Scouts than he does. This person is [redacted] (e-mail address: COP0236AD1.com) Robert is going to contact [redacted] and have him contact R/O.

6/14/01

R/O left a message for Mike at ATF to inform him of the status of this investigation.

Det. T. Leonard, #6153

Supplemental Narrative By Unknown, 12/10/17 22:40

Supplement

Officer:

LEONARD #3

6/7/01

TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH MIKE MARQUARDT

Agent Marquardt stated that he has received the print out from Arizona reference the lightening strikes in the area. With the longitude and latitude sent, they are not able to say that two lightening bolts did not strike the building.

6/8/01

R/O went to Meyer Well Drilling with Inspector Glotzbach. The 1952 Ford well drilling unit was examined for a second time. No evidence of this unit being struck by lightening was found.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]

[redacted] stated that he noticed no damage to his drilling rig or any equipment.

6/11/01

INTERVIEW WITH BARB VELDMAN (Former Fire Chief of Blue Lake Fire)

Barbs name was given as a suspect because she was extremely upset over the moving of the hunting lines. She stated that she has lived at her residence adjoining Owassippi land since 1983 and considers her property a wild life sanctuary.

Barb stated that there was a gentlemens agreement among all involved that a safety zone was in place for the hunters. Gerber still had campers during the hunting season and this was one of the reasons. Barb stated that she had permission to hunt Owassippi property behind her barn but seldom did.

Barb stated that she would not want to see the scouts move out. If they sell and move, the lake will be developed and she would loose her seclusion. She would only loose if the scouts sold. She stated that she is only interested in cooperating with the scouts.

Barb stated that over the years she has donated money and equipment to the scouts through the alumni association. When asked why through the alumni association, she said that she knows it will be used at Owassippi. Barb stated that they had a marvelous working agreement until the Fall of 1999.

R/O asked Barb is she was involved in the starting of the fires and she stated definitely not.

SCENE

Glotzbach and R/O went to the scene. The distance from the well to the buildings north edge is 319 feet. The area around the building was walked a considerable distance out from the building in all directions. No signs of lightening strikes were found.

Investigation continues.

Det. T. Leonard, #6153

Supplemental Narrative By Unknown, 12/10/17 22:40

Supplement

Officer:

LEONARD #1

5/16/01

TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH [redacted]

[redacted] tated that he is committed to keeping the ATF involved. He called and they have not yet been notified and would not respond until notified by this department.

TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH MICHAEL MARQUARDT

R/O attempted contact with Michael, but he was not in and a voice mail message was left.

Det. T. Leonard, #6153

Property / Evidence

Item #	Category	Type	Status	Location	Description
MCSD-2001-005841-2001	Unknown	Physical	Converted		Article - OTHER
MCSD-2001-005841-2002	Stolen	Physical	Converted		Article - OTHER
MCSD-2001-005841-2003	Stolen	Physical	Converted		Article - OTHER

MUSKEGON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

990 Terrace Street, Muskegon, MI 49442

Emergency 911 • Telephone (231) 724-6351

Case MCSD-2001-012393 Printed on July 7, 2025

Status	Approved
Report Type	Patrol
Primary Officer	Unknown
Investigator	None
Reported At	09/04/01 17:05
Incident Date	09/02/01 19:50 - 09/03/01 16:40
Incident Code	
Location	BLUE LAKE TWP
Disposition	Closed - Converted
Disposition Date/Time	09/04/01 17:05
Disposition Comments	
Review for Gang Activity	None

Case Comments

Tracking Notes:

Offense Information

Offense	22003 -:- BURGLARY: ENTRY WITHOUT AUTHORITY
Statute	Converted Statute
NIBRS Code	
Counts	1
Include In NIBRS	No
Completed	No
Entry Forced	No

Victim

[redacted] Converted Statute - 22003 -:- BURGLARY: ENTRY WITHOUT AUTHORITY

Other

PRUDEN, ROBERT JAMES - [redacted] Other: Converted Statute - 22003 -:- BURGLARY: ENTRY WITHOUT AUTHORITY

Original Narrative By Unknown, 12/04/17 13:45

Reporting Officer: PETERSON, STEVE

NARRATIVE: \NATURE OF COMPLAINT

Complainant Robert Pruden, called our Dept. and stated there was an attempt break in at camp Blackhawk.

SCENE

Camp Blackhawk is located on the South shore of Big Blue Lake, And can be accessed off Owasippe Rd. via a gated graveled road.

Mr. Pruden stated he checked camp Blackhawk 1950 Hrs. 9/2/01 and it was secure. It was checked 9/3/01 at 1640 Hrs. and the doors on the South West side of the building were ajar. It is unknown how the doors were opened, pried or a key used, however no pry marks were found on the door. Complainant said the door to the building had a partial shoe print, and it appeared someone attempted to kick the door in. Entry to the building was not gained, however a report was requested. Complainant also stated the gate at the entry to camp Blackhawk was damaged,and appeared to have been rammed by a vehicle, however it is not known if this is related to the attempt entry at the camp or not. No other evidence located, and there are no suspects at this time.

Report by Peterson 84161